



Afternoon Alert - Tuesday, June 20, 2017

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK led with a report that Tokyo Governor Koike has decided to relocate the Tokyo fish market from Tsukiji to Toyosu as planned and retain the market functions at Tsukiji for possible use in the future. Koike will hold a press conference to announce the decision later today. NTV gave top play to a report that Princess Mako and her fiancé will hold a press conference on July 8 to announce their engagement. TBS led with a report on a search of Moritomo Gakuen by the Osaka Prosecutors Office on Monday. Fuji TV and TV Asahi reported that Moritomo Gakuen's former head Kagoike expressed strong displeasure over the timing of the search.

POLITICS

MEXT finds new document on Kake Gakuen

NHK reported today that Education Minister Matsuno announced this morning that the ministry found an additional document at the ministry on statements made during a meeting between Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Hagiuda and a MEXT official last October, three months before Kake Gakuen was selected to operate a new veterinary school. The document reportedly states that Hagiuda told the MEXT official that the Kantei is determined to allow the Kake institution to open a new veterinary school and that the prime minister specified that the new school should open in April 2018.

According to the network, Minister Matsuno admitted that the director general of the Higher Education Bureau met with Hagiuda on Oct. 21 to explain the issue of opening a veterinary school in a special strategic zone. Matsuno reportedly said, however, that the document was prepared by a

different MEXT official who received a briefing from the Higher Education Bureau chief and other officials, and that the document contains statements that were not made by Hagiuda.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga told reporters this morning that the deputy chief cabinet secretary said he did not make any such comments and defended the selection process by saying it was carried out appropriately and that there was no political pressure.

Kake Gakuen scandal

NHK's "Close-up Gendai +" reported on the scandal involving Kake Educational Institution (Kake Gakuen), saying it was found that MEXT officials exchanged documents suggesting that Prime Minister Abe had tried to use his influence to have the ministry select Kake Gakuen, which is headed by Abe's close friend, to operate a new veterinary school scheduled to open in a special zone in Ehime Prefecture in 2018. The program said the GOJ claims that the selection process was carried out appropriately because all the meeting minutes were disclosed to ensure transparency and no instructions were issued by the Kantei or the Cabinet Office. The files discovered by the ministry include an email stating that Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Hagiura ordered a Cabinet Office official to revise a draft document to be presented at the GOJ advisory council on special zones to limit the establishment of new veterinary schools to regions where none existed, adding that this essentially ruled out applications from organizations other than Kake Gakuen. The program also reported on a comment by Hagiura in which he denied giving any such instructions.

- [Prime minister's schedule on June 19](#) (Nikkei)
- [Gist of PM Abe's news conference, June 19](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [As support slips, cracks start to show in Abe's invincible armor](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Ruling block feels heat from survey](#) (The Japan News)
- [Business lobby head says gov't should take drop in approval ratings seriously](#) (Mainichi)
- [Abe to name new minister for human resources development reforms](#) (Sankei)
- [Editorial: Only pursuing scandals in latest Diet session is highly unsatisfactory](#) (The Japan News)
- [Cartoon: Abe and Diet session](#) (Akahata)
- [Interview with Nikai on foreign policy, Tokyo assembly election, Koike, post-Abe candidates and more](#) (Bungeishunju)

- [DP Maehara presents manifesto for next Lower House election](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Editorial: Inada should restrain from criticizing war crimes tribunal](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Takaichi now longest-serving internal affairs, communications minister](#) (Kyodo News)

OPINION POLLS

- [65% say forced vote on conspiracy crime bill was “not good,” Asahi poll](#) (Asahi)
- [Opinion poll & results from Asahi Shimbun](#) (Asahi)
- [Abe’s approval rating plunges to 49% amid lingering school scandal, Nikkei poll](#) (Nikkei)
- [Abe cabinet’s support rate plunges to 44.9% with school scandal, Kyodo poll](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Kyodo News opinion poll & results from Tokyo Shimbun](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

SECURITY

U.S. submission of investigative report on Osprey crash delayed

Ryukyu Shimpo wrote that the U.S. military has not submitted a report on the results of its investigation into the crash of a Futenma-based MV-22 Osprey in waters off Nago in December 2016 even though Monday was set as the deadline for submission. The GOJ asked the U.S. side on December 19, 2016, three days after the incident, to provide a copy of an investigative report that can be disclosed to the public. The paper wrote that the deadline for submission will now be extended until September because the U.S. and Japan agreed to extend the deadline in three-month increments if the initial deadline was not met. The paper wrote that although the Ministry of Defense has told the governments of Okinawa Prefecture and Nago that it will provide a briefing immediately after it receives an investigative report from the U.S., it was not able to do so on Monday because of the delay in submission.

U.S. military notifies Okinawa of arrival of F-35s

Okinawa Times and Ryukyu Shimpo wrote that Okinawa Area Coordinator Nicholson notified Okinawa Vice Governor Tomikawa at around 11:00 a.m. on Monday by phone of the planned arrival of three F-35 stealth fighters at Kadena AB later in the day. However, the arrival was cancelled due

to foul weather. Okinawa Times wrote that it was unusual for the commander to give consideration to the prefecture by directly notifying it of the planned arrival of aircraft from outside Okinawa, quoting Lt. Gen. Nicholson as telling the vice governor that he did it as a favor. The Defense Ministry's Okinawa bureau said that the U.S. military has informed it that the F-35s will land at Kadena to refuel and will depart for MCAS Iwakuni, where they are stationed, upon completion of refueling.

Tomikawa reportedly told the Okinawa area coordinator that the use of Kadena by aircraft not stationed at the base should be discontinued. Governor Onaga issued a statement saying that the burden on Okinawa must not increase further and that he will call on the U.S. and Japanese governments to reduce it at every opportunity. Okinawa Times wrote that local residents are reacting sharply to the U.S. military's increasing activities at Kadena, including the use of a Navy ramp and parachute drop drills.

Increase in noise at Kadena possibly due to temporary deployment of F-16s

Okinawa Times wrote that the results of a survey conducted by the Kadena municipal government show that the number of instances of noise at three locations in the town has drastically increased since F-16s were temporarily deployed to Kadena on May 8. The municipality recorded how many times noise above 70 decibels was detected. The number of times in the 30-day period from April 8 to May 7 was 1,459 in the Yara district, but increased to 2,121 in the period between May 8 and June 6. The number also increased from 553 to 856 in the Kaneku district and from 399 to 724 in the Kadena district. The paper wrote that although the municipality could not identify which aircraft generated the noise, it speculates that the temporary deployment of the F-16s is related to the increase.

- **Editorial: 25 years after enactment of PKO law, Japan's aid still vital** (The Mainichi)
- **Cyberattack precautions for IoT devices needed amid low awareness** (Nikkei)

INTERNATIONAL

- **Editorial: We express our condolences and respect to Fitzgerald crew** (Sankei)
- **Amari rumored to make full political comeback, take charge of Japan-U.S. trade talks** (FACTA)
- **China telling companies not to hire North Koreans** (Nikkei Asian Review)
- **FM Kishida meets U.S. expert, discusses bilateral alliance, North Korea, security issues** (Nikkei)
- **Japan names new ambassadors to Greece, El Salvador, Georgia** (Kyodo News)

- [Lawyer alleged to have leaked Cannataci's letter to DP](#) (Sankei)
- [Guinean President Conde calls for investment by Japanese firms](#) (Kyodo News)

ECONOMY

- [Japan automakers reach for 40% American market share](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

SCIENCE

- [Use of AI to cut drug development time and cost in half](#) (Yomiuri)

EDUCATION

- [Eight women's colleges open to idea of accepting transgender students: survey](#) (Asahi)

